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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/621,975      | 07/21/2000  | Noah P. Montena      | 8958-0026           | 5489             |

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EXAMINER

LUEBKE, RENEE S

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
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2833

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Response to Rule 312  
Communication**

Application No.  
09/621,975

Applicant(s)  
Montena

Examiner  
Renee S. Luebke

Art Unit  
2833



--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

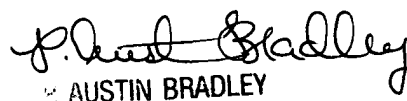
1. ☒ The amendment filed on Feb 25, 2003 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:


- a) ☐ entered.
- b) ☐ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.
- c) ☐ disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.  
Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.
- d) ☐ disapproved. See explanation below.
- e) ☒ entered in part. See explanation below.

*The amendments to the specification have been entered; they merely add alternative terminology or elaborate on features that are shown in the drawings.*

*Claim 35 has not been entered. It contradicts claim 22 from which it depends. Claim 22 requires the central passageway of the compression ring to include "an inwardly tapered annular wall leading from the first internal bore." If the detent 248 is considered to be the first constant diameter internal bore, as suggested by applicant, there is no tapered wall leading therefrom. The tapered wall 260 is a significant distance away.*

*Claim 36 has not been entered. It too is contradictory. To include the detent 248 as part of the "constant diameter inner bore" 256 yields a bore that is not a constant diameter.*

  
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